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WYOMING

VOL. 23 NO. 3 MAR. 1986

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Dec. '85	Jan. '86
Labor Force	243,013	244,641
Employment	223,685	219,490
Unemployment	19,328	25,151
Rate (Raw)	8.0	10.3
Rate (S.A.)	7.8	9.0
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.91	$13.54
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.8	45.1
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	6.9	6.7
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.25	$12.20
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	44.1	43.7
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	327.4	328.4
Denver (Bimonthly)		364.4
Year Change (U.S.)	+3.8	+3.9

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

THE NATIONAL SCENE

In January, the number of unemployed nationwide edged down to 7.8 million, and the civilian unemployment rate dropped 0.2 percent from December to 6.7 percent, seasonally adjusted. The rate was at its lowest level since March of 1980. The adjusted rate for January, 1985 was 7.4 percent.

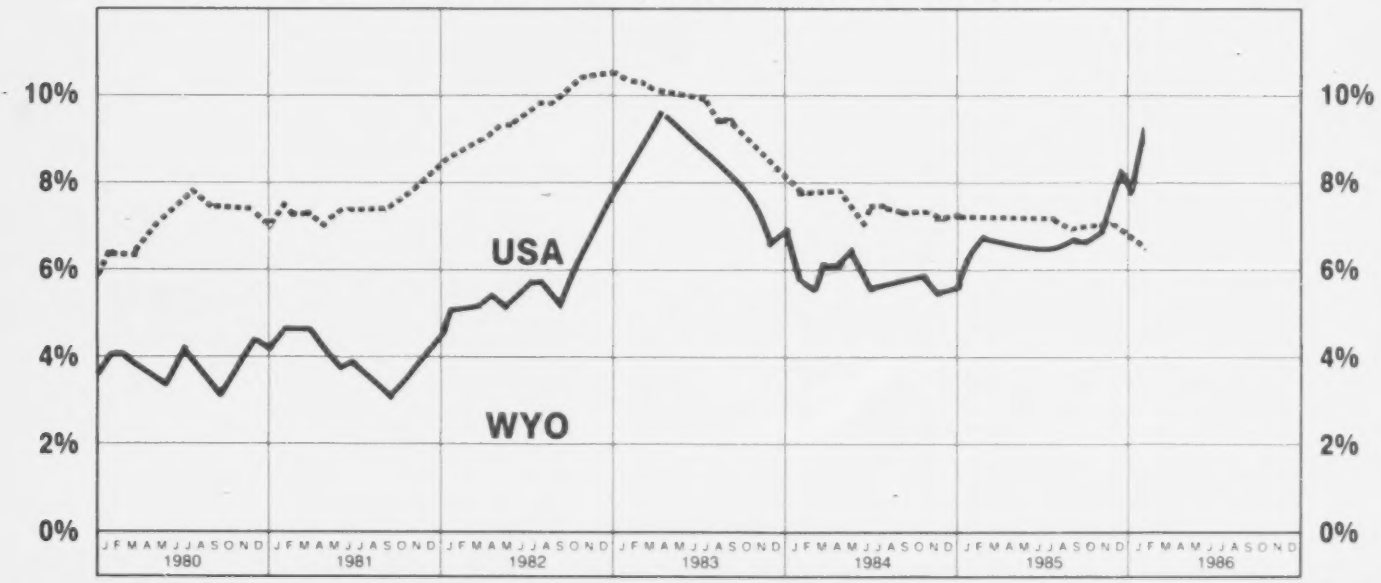
IN WYOMING

The unadjusted unemployment rate in Wyoming continued to rise sharply in January, to 10.3 percent, reflecting a month-to-month increase of about 25 percent in claims for unemployment insurance. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate leaped from 7.8 percent in December to 9.0 percent in January. And, the unemployment rate is expected to go even higher in February. January's Wyoming labor force stood at 244,600, which was about the same as December and was up about one and a half percent from January, 1985.

COUNTY TRENDS

Sublette County continues to hold the lead in increased labor force, year-to-year, on a percentage wise basis, showing a gain of 30.8 percent. Other counties with increased labor force were: Lincoln, 23.5 percent; Sweetwater, 11.4 percent;

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

County Trends – Continued

Uinta, 4.2 percent; Campbell, 3.9 percent; Laramie, 3.4 percent; Park, 2.6 percent; Teton, 2.4 percent; and Albany, with 0.7 percent.

Natrona County suffered a decline of nearly 1,400 workers year to year, but Fremont County continued to have the highest unemployment rate, at 14.9 percent. Other counties with substantial decreases in their labor force were Weston, Big Horn, Sheridan, Goshen and Carbon.

NEIGHBORING STATES

December's unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, is the latest data available for other states. Wyoming's December unemployment rate, 8.0 percent, was exceeded only by Montana, which had a rate of 8.8 percent. Idaho's unemployment rate was 7.9 percent; North Dakota, 6.8 percent; Colorado, 6.5 percent; Nebraska, 6.1 percent; Utah, 6.0 percent; and South Dakota, 5.2 percent. West Virginia, with a rate of 12.4 percent, again had the highest unemployment in the Nation. New Hampshire had an unemployment rate of 2.6 percent, the lowest in the U.S.

WYOMING'S POPULATION AT MID DECADE: A CENSUS BUREAU ESTIMATE

According to an estimate from the U.S. Bureau of Census, Wyoming's population has grown 8.5 percent since 1980. This compared to national growth of 5.4 percent for the same period. As of July 1, 1985, the Census Bureau estimated Wyoming's population to be 509,000.

The Cowboy State's population was pegged at 470,000 by the 1980 Census and climbed to an estimated 516,000 residents by 1983. Since that time however, Wyoming has seen an out migration and a decline in population due to lower wages and loss of work. The current 1985 estimate of 509,000 puts Wyoming among five other states (Iowa, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, North Dakota, and Oklahoma) which have lost population since 1984.

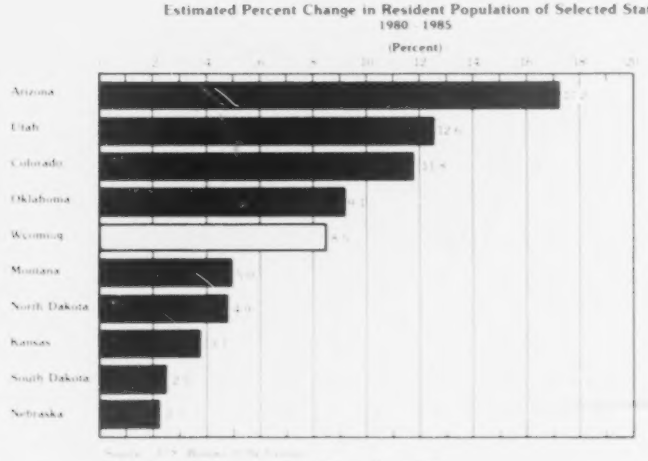
The table below shows the U.S. resident population esitmates for July 1, 1985 (provisional), July 1, 1984, the April 1, 1980 Census counts, and the 1980-1985 change by number and percent for states in the Denver Region.

ESTIMATES OF THE RESIDENT POPULATION OF THE STATES, JULY 1, 1984 AND 1985

(Numbers in thousands)

STATE	JULY 1, 1985	JULY 1, 1984	APRIL 1, 1980	CHANGE, 1980-1985 NUMBER	CHANGE, 1980-1985 PERCENT
					(See graph)
Arizona	3,187	3,072	2,718	469	17.2
Colorado	3,231	3,190	2,890	341	11.8
Kansas	2,450	2,440	2,364	87	3.7
Montana	826	823	787	40	5.0
Nebraska	1,606	1,605	1,570	36	2.3
North Dakota	685	687	653	32	4.9
Oklahoma	3,301	3,310	3,025	276	9.1
South Dakota	708	705	691	17	2.5
Utah	1,645	1,623	1,461	184	12.6
Wyoming	509	513	470	40	8.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, January-February 1986

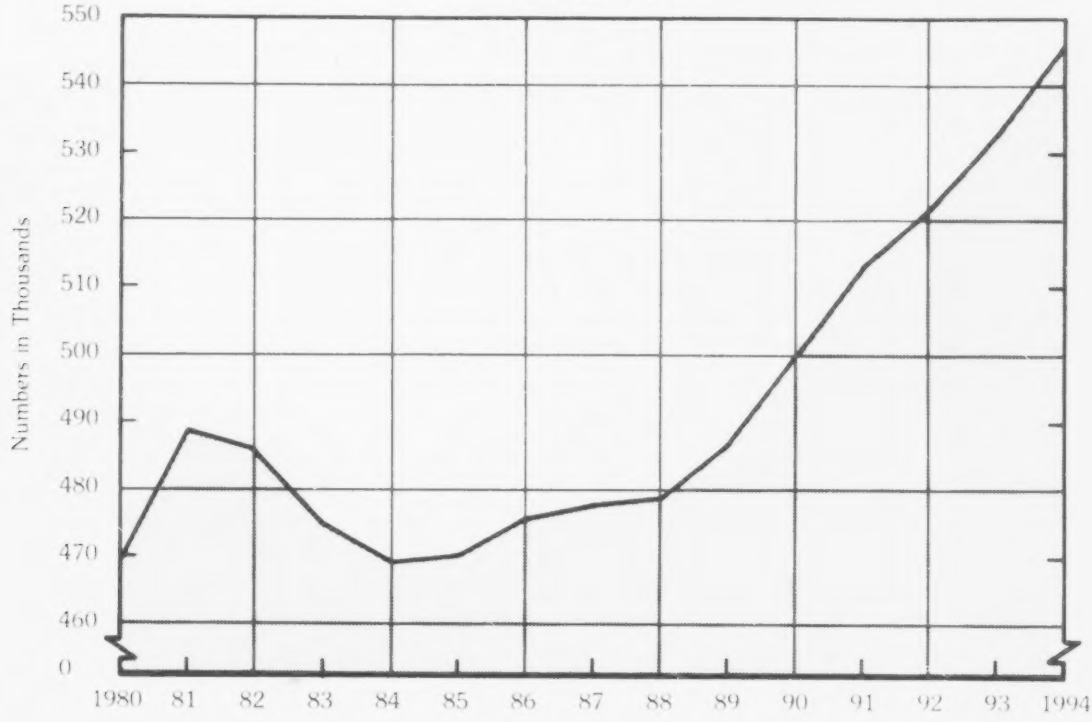


WYOMING'S POPULATION, A SECOND SOURCE

In addition to population estimates by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the Division of Research and Statistics, Wyoming Department of Administration and Fiscal Control (DAFC) also prepares population estimates. The estimates appear in the *Wyoming Population and Employment Forecast Report, 8th Edition*. According to that report, Wyoming's 1985 population is estimated at 470,234 residents.

The following graph is based upon population estimates supplied by the "Population Report." The graph illustrates the estimated population figures from 1980 to 1994. It also forecasts growth in Wyoming's population from 1985 forward. If this holds true, it will be welcomed news to a state that has experienced some difficult times.

Wyoming's Estimated Population, With Forecasts
1980 thru 1994



Source: Division of Research and Statistics, Wyoming Department of Administration and Fiscal Control. *Wyoming Population and Employment Forecast Report, 8th Edition*. September, 1985.

Prepared by: W.E.S.C. Research and Analysis, March, 1986.

1986 WYOMING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DATA PACKAGE AVAILABLE

The 1986 Wyoming Affirmative Action Data Packages are now available through your local Job Service Office or from the Research and Analysis section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission.

The "Package" provides population and workforce data on women and minorities groups and aids employers in developing plans for hiring members of these groups. The information is available for all counties and statewide. Any additional questions concerning the Affirmative Action Program should be addressed to: Oralia G. Mercado, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
January 1986	328.4	315.6	356.8	273.4	205.0	323.4	418.2
Annual % Change	3.9	2.7	4.3	6.3	2.6	2.9	6.9

Because the Bureau of Labor Statistics no longer has the printing funds required to continue the former format, Wage Earners and Clerical Workers data is not available by specific items.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	JAN 1986 [1]	DEC 1985 [1]	JAN 1985 [2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	244,641	243,013	241,078	0.7	1.5
Unemployment	25,151	19,328	18,357	30.1	37.0
Employed Labor Force	219,490	223,685	222,721	- 1.9	- 1.5
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	181,400	188,400	183,232	- 3.7	- 1.0
b. Agriculture[3]	6,174	7,915	6,288	- 22.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	10.3% 9.0%*	8.0% 7.8%*	7.6% 6.6%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	7.3% 6.7%*	6.7% 6.9%*	8.0% 7.4%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	3.9%	3.2%	2.6%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 610.65	$ 609.26	$ 586.16	0.2	4.2
Average Weekly Hours	45.1	43.8	43.1	3.0	4.6
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.54	$ 13.91	$ 13.60	- 2.7	- 0.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	37,619	30,080	29,805	25.1	26.2
a. Initial	5,816	4,582	5,774	26.9	0.7
Weeks Compensated	29,228	23,357	19,642	25.1	48.8
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 4,601,047	$ 3,621,320	$ 2,900,513	27.1	58.6
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 157.12	$ 154.73	$ 147.06	1.5	6.8
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	5,827	3,273	3,525	78.0	65.3
Non-Ag. Openings Received	2,721	2,705	1,920	0.6	41.7
Non-Ag. Placements	2,519	2,598	1,711	- 3.0	47.2
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 535.33	$ 538.02	$ 508.79	- 0.5	5.2
Average Weekly Hours	43.7	44.1	42.9	- 0.9	1.9
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.25	$ 12.20	$ 11.86	0.4	3.3
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	328.4	327.4	316.1	0.3	3.9
Producer Prices, All Commodities	309.0	310.2	309.5	- 0.4	- 0.2
Retail Prices of Food 1967 = 100	315.6	313.2	307.3	0.8	2.7

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	JAN 1986	DEC 1985	JAN 1985	%CHANGE DEC-JAN	%CHANGE JAN-JAN	JAN 1986	DEC 1985	JAN 1985	JAN 1986	DEC 1985	JAN 1985
Statewide	244,641	243,013	241,078	0.7	1.5	25,151	19,328	18,357	10.3	8.0	7.6
Statewide - Seasonally adjusted									9.0	7.8	6.6
Albany	15,763	15,254	15,647	3.3	0.7	1,231	800	850	7.8	5.2	5.4
Big Horn	4,343	4,315	4,721	0.6	- 8.0	551	469	466	12.7	10.9	9.9
Campbell	19,226	18,261	18,504	5.3	3.9	1,580	1,341	1,201	8.2	7.3	6.5
Carbon	8,277	8,346	8,578	- 0.8	- 3.5	1,136	862	803	13.7	10.3	9.4
Converse	6,421	6,091	6,420	5.4	0.0	856	620	562	13.3	10.2	8.8
Crook	2,671	2,570	2,686	3.9	- 0.6	277	231	188	10.4	9.0	7.0
Fremont	16,511	15,704	16,786	5.1	- 1.6	2,453	1,727	1,783	14.9	11.0	10.6
Goshen	5,527	5,624	5,833	- 1.7	- 5.2	449	364	354	8.1	6.5	6.1
Hot Springs	2,689	2,667	2,873	0.8	- 6.4	214	189	159	7.9	7.1	5.5
Johnson	3,150	3,067	3,386	2.7	- 7.0	358	255	208	11.4	8.3	6.1
Laramie	34,730	35,438	33,572	- 2.0	3.4	2,927	2,312	2,443	8.4	6.5	7.3
Lincoln	8,562	8,564	6,932	0.0	23.5	886	663	664	10.3	7.7	9.6
Natrona	34,817	36,250	36,187	- 4.0	- 3.8	3,842	3,079	2,698	11.0	8.5	7.5
Niobrara	1,500	1,448	1,582	3.6	- 5.2	201	145	172	13.4	10.0	10.9
Park	12,716	12,508	12,395	1.7	2.6	1,267	982	991	10.0	7.9	8.0
Platte	3,495	3,579	3,521	- 2.3	- 0.7	467	391	286	13.4	10.9	8.1
Sheridan	12,625	12,662	12,964	- 0.3	- 2.6	1,392	1,065	1,225	11.0	8.4	9.5
Sublette	3,405	3,370	2,603	1.0	30.8	282	162	156	8.3	4.8	6.0
Sweetwater	21,645	21,265	19,429	1.8	11.4	2,096	1,653	1,362	9.7	7.8	7.0
Teton	7,349	7,237	7,179	1.5	2.4	654	530	541	8.9	7.3	7.5
Uinta	11,316	11,058	10,864	2.3	4.2	1,266	909	744	11.2	8.2	6.8
Washakie	4,755	4,644	4,871	2.4	- 2.4	454	348	277	9.5	7.5	5.7
Weston	3,149	3,092	3,545	1.8	- 11.2	313	232	225	9.9	7.5	6.4
United States									7.3	6.7	8.0
United States -Seasonally adjusted									6.7	6.9	7.4

* The data contained in this table updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	JAN 1986[2]	DEC 1985[3]	JAN 1985	JAN 1986	JAN 1986
	Total	Total	Total	to DEC 1985	to JAN 1985
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	195.9	201.9	195.5	- 3.0	0.2
Manufacturing	7.8	7.9	7.9	- 1.3	- 1.3
Durable Goods	3.5	3.6	3.6	- 2.8	- 2.8
Nondurable Goods	4.3	4.4	4.2	- 2.3	2.4
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.0	- 10.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	188.2	194.0	187.7	- 3.0	0.3
Mining	25.7	26.6	26.5	- 3.4	- 3.0
Contract Construction	10.6	11.6	11.5	- 8.6	- 7.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.9	15.3	15.2	- 2.6	- 2.0
Railroad Transportation	2.8	2.9	2.5	- 3.4	12.0
Transportation except Railroads	5.6	5.8	6.0	- 3.4	- 6.7
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.5	6.5	6.7	0.0	- 3.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	43.2	44.7	44.5	- 3.4	- 2.9
Wholesale Trade	9.1	9.3	9.3	- 2.2	- 2.2
Retail Trade	34.2	35.4	35.2	- 3.4	- 2.8
Food Stores	5.1	5.2	5.3	- 1.9	- 3.8
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	6.2	6.2	5.8	0.0	6.9
Eating & Drinking Places	11.4	11.8	12.4	- 3.4	- 8.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.9	7.9	8.0	0.0	- 1.3
Services	32.8	33.1	30.7	- 0.9	6.8
Personal Services	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Medical & Other Health Services	6.6	6.4	6.1	3.1	8.2
Government	53.1	54.8	51.3	- 3.1	3.5
Federal Government	7.2	7.4	6.7	- 2.7	7.5
State & Local Government	45.9	47.3	44.6	- 3.0	2.9
State Government	13.6	14.0	13.1	- 2.9	3.8
Local Government	32.2	33.4	31.5	- 3.6	2.2

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	JAN 1986[2]	DEC 1985[3]	JAN 1985	JAN 1986	JAN 1986
	Total	Total	Total	to DEC 1985	to JAN 1985
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.5	32.2	32.6	- 5.3	- 6.4
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.2	30.9	31.3	- 5.5	- 6.7
Mining	4.4	4.4	5.2	0.0	- 15.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.1	4.1	4.7	0.0	- 12.8
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0	- 25.0
Contract Construction	1.6	1.7	1.5	- 5.9	6.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.0	- 4.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.8	9.4	9.4	- 6.4	- 6.4
Wholesale Trade	3.0	3.2	3.4	- 6.3	- 11.8
Retail Trade	5.8	6.2	6.0	- 6.5	- 3.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.5	1.5	1.7	0.0	- 11.8
Services	5.4	5.6	5.5	- 3.6	- 1.8
Government	5.5	6.3	5.9	- 12.7	- 6.8
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	4.8	5.6	5.3	- 14.3	- 9.4
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.7	30.4	29.1	- 2.3	2.1
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.6	29.4	28.1	- 2.7	1.8
Contract Construction	1.3	1.4	1.3	- 7.1	0.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.3	3.5	3.2	- 5.7	3.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	6.4	6.8	7.0	- 5.9	- 8.6
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	5.8	6.1	6.2	- 4.9	- 6.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6
Services & Miscellaneous	5.3	5.3	4.9	0.0	8.2
Government	10.4	10.5	9.9	- 1.0	5.1
Federal Government	2.6	2.7	2.4	- 3.7	8.3
State & Local Government	7.7	7.8	7.5	- 1.3	2.7

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag. establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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